materials, namely, proprietory formulations, natural and essential synthetic oils, citric acid, gum erabic etc. The level of replenishment at the time of closure of the company in 1977 was 3.5 per cent. In addition, the company was also getting actual user import licence which varied from year to year.

(b) and (c) An application has been submitted by M/s. Punjab Agro Industries Corporation for the manufacture of various items of processed foods in financial participation with one of the Tata Companies and M/s. Pepsico Incorporated of USA. No decision has yet been taken on the project and hence it is not possible to give any information regarding the import content.

(d) It is a fact that as per Appendix 17 of the current import policy import of flavouring essences is allowed upto 1 per cent of F.O.B. value of exports against export product group G 6 namely, "fruit juice, nectars and pulps/concentrates".

Foreign debt

803. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what has been India's indebtedness to foreign countries as on (i) October 1, 1966 (ii) October 1, 1976; and (iii) October 1, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): India's indebtedness to foreign countries/institutions on Government account was as follows:—

(Rs. in Crores)

As on	*Amount*
31-3-1966	3374.10*
1-10-1976	10729.75
1-10-1986 (Provisional)	27432.20

*Monthwise indebtedness figures for 1966 not available. Hence position as on 31-3-1966 has been indicated. The figure does not include loan outstanding under PL—480 Programme.

Talks with Australia on Disarmament

804. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an agreed solution and approach to joint disarmament and arms control with Australia and if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(b) whether any move has already been made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No proposal for a joint approach to disarmament and arms control has been discussed with Australia.

Trade Gap

805. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the gap in external trade is widening by leaps and bounds;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the big houses are not exporting goods according to expectations; and

(c) what is the contribution in exports by the various sectors so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The trade deficit registered a decline in absolute terms from a level of Rs. 5838.44 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 5801.64 crores in 1981-82, to Rs. 5439.37 crores in 1982-83 and to 5318.10 crores in 1984-85. The years 1983-84 and 1985-86, however, proved exceptions, the former due to port strike in March

1984 which affected the export shipments and the latter mainly due to stoppage of crude oil exports due to development domestic refining capacity. However, the trade deficit during the first quarter of the current financial year i.e. April—June, 1986 amounted to Rs. 1623.86 crores which is less as compared to the deficit of Rs. 2109.10 crores during April—June, 1985.

(b) According to certain recent studies made by Association of Indian Engineering Industry and Engineering Export Promotion Council, many of the large engineering Companies have been exporting much lower percentage of their production. In case of a number of Companies, the exports are negligible.

(c) Details are annexed by way of a statement.

Statement

Indias Exports of Principal Commodities

(*Value*: *Rs. crores*)

Sl. No	Commodities	April—June 1985-86 (P)	April—June 1986-87 (P)
1	2	3	4
1	Tea	101.09	66.22
2	Coffee	55.16	97.76
3	*Tobacco*		
	(a) Unmanufactured	12.50	64.29
	(b) Manufactured	6.92	5.74
4	Sugar	0.09	0.41
5	Cashew Kernels	53.84	88.65
6	Fruits & vegetables	67.57	49.91
7	Oil cakes	26.04	44.37(a)
8	Spices	36.86	116.92
9	Marine Products	78.33	74.86
10	Meat & meat preparations	18.05	19.63
11	Rice	47.58	73.79
12	Cotton Raw	34.51	39.76
13	Ore & Minerals (of which)	161.26	149.71
	(a) Iron Ore	161.26	116.14
14	Cotton Fabrics, yarn & made ups etc.	133.50	122.48
15	Readymade garments	234.81	202.65
16	Silk Fabrcis	9.16	33.69(b)

1	2	3	4
17	Jute manufactures	75·75	57·90
18	Coir and Coir mfrs.	5·62	8·99
19	Leather & leather mfrs. incl. footwear	129·67	165·73
20	Chemicals & allied products	78·93	91·33(c)
21	Gems & jewellery	47·23(d)	372·73
22	Work of Arts	32·85	85·13(e)
23	Engineering goods	163·37(f)	220·96
24	Crude Oil	135·15	Nil
25	Mineral fuels,lubricants & related products (petroleum products)	59.39	31·46
	GRAND TOTAL (Including others)	2239·49	2790·30

NOTE : (a) relates to oil meals.

(b) relates to natural silk textiles

(c) relates to chemicals & related products.

(d) This represents an underestimate of exports due to incomplete returns.

(e) relates to Handicrafts.

(f) relates to metal manufactures exceptiron & Steel and machinery including transport equipment.

(P)—Commodity-wise figures are provisional/preliminary and subject to revision.

SOURCE : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

Disappearance of Directors of a Manpower Agency in Kerala

806. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'Blitz' of the 25th October, 1986 about the disappearance of the directors of the overseas manpower consulting and recruiting agency called "American Exports" in Trivandrum, Kerala after extracting Rs. 14 lakhs from about 60 unemployed job aspirants;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been made in this regard; and

(c) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Three criminal cases have been registered by Trivandrum police Authorities for cheating and extortion of Rs. 12.3 lakhs from about sixty persons. Accused in this case are:

(1) Mr. Sunny Thomas, Proprietor,

(2) Mrs. Valsala Thomas; and

(3) John Mathew, Manager.

Accused No. 3 has been arrested while remaining are untraceable.